

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communication and the Arts

Programme: Study Abroad

FHEQ Level: 3

Course Title: Foundations of Photography

Course Code: ARTS 3601

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

Course Description:

This course concentrates on developing the student's visual intelligence via photography. Technically, students will learn to use digital SLR cameras and the basic workflow using Adobe CC. By looking at the work of a range of artists, students will be introduced to some of the theories that underpin photographic practice and consider photography's place and role in contemporary culture. Throughout the course students make images which finally result in an edited portfolio of photographic images.

Prerequisites:

None

Students will not be able to take the four-credit version of this course if they had previously taken this three-credit course.

Aims and Objectives:

Aims and objectives of the course include the following:

- Understanding light using the digital SLR camera effectively
- Understanding various image components
- Image workflow and editing using Adobe Creative Cloud
- Becoming aware of major current issues in photography

Students are expected to understand the underlying technical theory and application of the photographic process. Making connections between the work of other artists and the images the student is producing is important to the development of the student's ability to critically analyse his/her/their and fellow student's work. Students are expected to do research, which reflects their developing understandings of the importance of visual language and the thinking process.

Programme Outcomes:

3AI

3BI

3CI

3DI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by the registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the workings of a digital SLR camera and how choice of ISO, shutter speed and aperture critically affect the images in photography.
- Analyse and edit one's own photographic images in relation to the criteria of a set brief.
- Be familiar with the processes of image workflow and editing using Adobe Creative Cloud.
- Discuss his/her/their work in both theoretical and technical terms, both orally and in writing.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the potential for self and corporate expression and communication through using the camera.

Indicative Content:

- Brief History of Photography including contemporary practitioners and theorists
- Digital SLR camera and how it works including f-stops, shutter speed, ISO and their effects on the final image
- Tripod
- Digital printing
- Basic studio lighting
- Experimental techniques
- How to present your work: statement, supporting material and portfolio

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

Course material is presented through lectures, demonstrations, discussions and visual presentations. Critique of work produced will take place at the editing stage and upon completion of each project.

Indicative Text(s):

Carroll, H. (2023) *Read this if you want to take great photographs*. Rev. edn. London: Laurence King Publishing.

Cotton, C. (2020) *The photograph as contemporary art*. 4th ed. London: Thames and Hudson Ltd.

Fox, A. and Sawdon Smith, R. (2015) *Langford's Basic Photography: The guide for serious photographers*, Focal Press; 10th edition. UK: Routledge.

Wells, L. (2021) *Photography: A critical introduction*. 6th ed. UK: Routledge.

Wuebker, A. (2021) *Basic Tricks of Photography: Where should you start for digital photography?*.

Websites:

The Photographers' Gallery. Available at: <https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk> (accessed November 2024).

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry
First Edition	Nov 2024	